



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

BIA-2019-01289

August 30, 2019

American Oversight  
1030 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite B255  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Austin R. Evers:

The Indian Affairs FOIA Office received your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated July 24, 2019, on July 31, 2019 and assigned it control number BIA-2019-01289. Please cite this number in any future communications with our office regarding your request.

Your request was for communications between either the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs or the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs and any representative of Cove Strategies or Black Diamond Strategies.

We are writing to respond to your request. It has been determined that Indian Affairs has no records responsive to your request.

Kelly Meacham, Government Information Specialist, is responsible for this denial.

We do not bill requesters for FOIA processing fees when their fees are less than \$50.00, because the cost of collection would be greater than the fee collected. See 43 C.F.R. § 2.37(g). Therefore, there is no billable fee for the processing of this request.

You may appeal this response to the Department's FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer. If you choose to appeal, the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer must receive your FOIA appeal **no later than 90 workdays** from the date of this letter. Appeals arriving or delivered after 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, will be deemed received on the next workday.

**Your appeal must be made in writing.** You may submit your appeal and accompanying materials to the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer by mail, courier service, fax, or email. All communications concerning your appeal should be clearly marked with the words: "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL." You must

include an explanation of why you believe Indian Affairs' response is in error. You must also include with your appeal copies of all correspondence between you and Indian Affairs concerning your FOIA request, including your original FOIA request and Indian Affairs' response. Failure to include with your appeal all correspondence between you and Indian Affairs will result in the Department's rejection of your appeal, unless the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer determines (in the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer's sole discretion) that good cause exists to accept the defective appeal.

Please include your name and daytime telephone number (or the name and telephone number of an appropriate contact), email address and fax number (if available) in case the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer needs additional information or clarification of your appeal.

*DOI FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office Contact Information*

Department of the Interior  
Office of the Solicitor  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
MS-6556 MIB  
Washington, DC 20240

Attn: FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office

Telephone: (202) 208-5339  
Fax: (202) 208-6677  
Email: [FOIA.Appeals@sol.doi.gov](mailto:FOIA.Appeals@sol.doi.gov)

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. 552(c). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

The 2007 FOIA amendments created the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740-6001  
E-mail: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
Web: <https://ogis.archives.gov>  
Telephone: 202-741-5770  
Fax: 202-741-5769  
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

Please note that using OGIS services does not affect the timing of filing an appeal with the Department's FOIA & Privacy Act Appeals Officer. If you have any questions about our response to your request, you

may contact Kelly Meacham by phone at (202) 513-7707 or by email at [kelly.meacham@bia.gov](mailto:kelly.meacham@bia.gov), or by mail at 1849 C Street, NW, MS-4146-MIB, Washington, DC 20240.

You also may seek dispute resolution services from our Acting FOIA Public Liaison, Heather Garcia, by phone at (202) 208-3135 or by email at [foia@bia.gov](mailto:foia@bia.gov).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'K' followed by a cursive 'M'.

Kelly Meacham  
Government Information Specialist  
Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs